Chara Label Anthology
chara collection
キャラコレクション
2003
CHARA COMICS SPECIAL
VOL. 1
巻頭カラー
鹿住 槇 原作
&桜城やや 作画
「と受協走ー両立ライフ」
「そして恋が始まる」
月村 奎 原作
&夢花 李 作画
「時計塔のパーティ」
青野 彰 原作
&二宮悦巳 作画
「白い悪魔パース」
雁川せゆ
「ひめごと」
ILLUSTRATION
鹿住 槇
「ヤバくて大変!」
広川和恵
「オトコの心得」
成瀬千雪
「彼と六人の家庭の事情」

Story By:
Kei Tsukimura

Art By:
Sumomo Yumeka

I, MIKI TAMURA, THROUGH THE 17 YEARS OF MY LIFE HAVE LEARNED TO MASTER
This chance encounter just may change my life...
THE ART OF READING PEOPLE'S FEELINGS

mochi mochi presents

そして恋がはじまる

story of pure hearts

so love begins

chara novels

(so love begins) Kei Tsukimura
Illustrations Sumomo Yumeka

IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN ONE MONTH SINCE SHE FIRST APPROACHED ME TO GO OUT WITH HER
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN DO THIS...
I'M PROBABLY JUST NOT THE TYPE THAT'S ABLE TO HANDLE LOVE AND SCHOOL AT THE SAME TIME...
TAKE FOR EXAMPLE, MY BREAK UP WITH SAYAKA ISHIKAWA...
IT'S REALLY HARD TO DEAL WITH GIRLS ...
WELL, IF IT WERE SOMEONE THAT I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT, IT'D BE FINE. BUT ANYTHING SERIOUS, MY THOUGHTS WOULD BE FILLED WITH ONLY THAT.
SHE WANTS TO BREAK UP WITH ME, BUT SHE CAN'T BEAR TO HURT HER PRIDE.
SINCE YOUR GRADES DROPPED BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH ME?
IF MY GRADES WERE TO KEEP DROPPING, I'D FEEL BAD ABOUT MAKING YOU FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR IT TOO...
I SEE I WOULDN'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN TO YOU BECAUSE OF ME...

I GUESS IT'D BE BETTER FOR US TO DISTANCE OURSELVES A LITTLE...
BREAK UP COMPLETED WITHOUT A HITCH.
MIKI, DID ISHIKAWA CALL YOU OUT JUST NOW?
MUST BE NICE BEING A COUPLE SO YOU CAN BE ALL LOVEY-DOVEY DURING LUNCHTIME
IT WASN'T ALL LOVEY-DOVEY I WAS DUMPED
WHAT? DIDN'T YOU TWO ONLY START GOING OUT?
YEAH, BUT I WAS DUMPED
Glomp
IT'S FINE THOUGH! NOW THAT I KNOW THAT I DON'T DO WELL WITH GIRLS, I'LL JUST RUN TO GUYS.

ANYWAYS, MIKI
DON'T GET DOWN ABOUT IT.
NOW THAT EVEN YOU'VE GOTTEN DUMPED, WE CAN HELP CHEER YOU UP!
cut it out. even if I were to not, I'd still prefer girls!
COME ON! WE'RE GONNA HAVE A CHEERING-UP PARTY FOR MIKI TODAY!
huh?
LET'S GO TO MICKEY D'S AFTER-SCHOOL.
BUT...
WE HAVE CRAM SCHOOL TODAY.
OH YEAH,
TODAY'S THE DAY FOR THE MONTHLY MOCK EXAM
BUT...
EVERYONE'S TREATING ME, RIGHT?

OH, I'M SORRY.
SNAP
THE SECOND CLASS SHOULD BE STARTING ABOUT NOW.
GASP
!
CLINK
SCRAPE
!

CRAP...
HE KNOWS THAT I'VE BEEN SMOKING PROBABLY...
OH, IT'S ALRIGHT IT'S EMPTY ALREADY...
...OH, IT IS...
ARE YOU NOT COLD?
HOW NICE TO BE YOUNG
I'LL JUST THROW THIS OUT SINCE I'M ON MY WAY...
NO...
I-I'M FINE.

I'M HOME.
WELCOME HOME, MIKI
OH, HOW DO YOU EVENLY DISTRIBUTE COLUMNS AGAIN?
WHERE'S MANA-CHAN?
GEEZ, THAT GIRL SHE WENT OFF ALL ANNOYED AND WOULDN'T TELL ME HOW TO DO IT
HERE, LOOK.
YOU HOLD DOWN THIS KEY AND THEN PRESS F1.

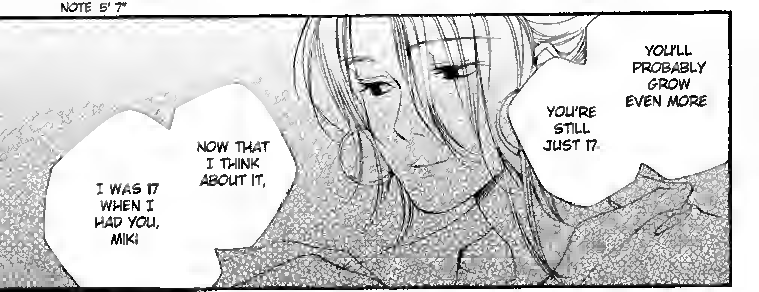
WELCOME HOME. HAVE YOU EATEN YET?
I'M HOME
NOT YET...
OH, I SEE! THANKS.
YOU MUST BE HUNGRY NOW. I'LL GO WARM UP DINNER
IT'S OK, I CAN DO IT MYSELF...
DAD, THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION THAT YOU TAUGHT ME YESTERDAY WAS RIGHT.
OH, YEAH? SEE...
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN MUCH OF MY FOREIGN LANGUAGES
BUT...
OH, REALLY?
GREAT! SOUNDS FUN!
TRUTHFULLY, I DON'T REALLY LIKE FISHING...
DO YOU WANT TO GO FISHING WITH ME NEXT SUNDAY?
OH, MIKI

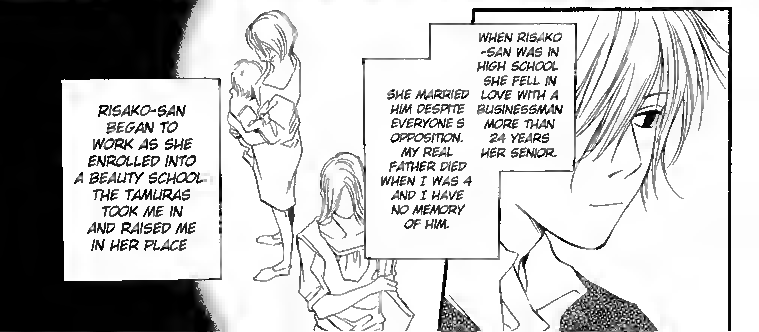
BUT IF IT MAKES DAD HAPPY
YOU'RE ALREADY A JUNIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL. QUIT HANGING ONTO PAPA'S HAND. IT'S NOT NORMAL FOR A KID YOUR AGE TO WANT TO GO FISHING.
GO GET A GIRL-FRIEND OR SOME-THING, MIKI.
HOW ABOUT YOU? WHY DON'T YOU STOP WRITING THOSE INDISCREPTANT NOVELS OF YOURS AND FIND A GUY I CAN MARRY YOU OFF TO?
IT'S NOT INDISCREPTANT, BUT JUST TRASHY.
MIKI, HAND ME A YOGURT, WOULD YOU?
MANAKA.
AREN'T YOU JUST BOSSING ME AROUND LIKE A LITTLE BROTHER?
MANA-CHAN WRITES EXTREME SENSATIONALIST NOVELS FOR WOMEN
IF I WERE IN HER POSITION, I WOULDN'T EVER BE ABLE TO FACE OUR PARENTS.
WELL, IT'S NATURAL FOR A BOY TAKEN IN AS A STRAY TO SERVE THE FAMILY'S YOUNG MISTRESS.

SHALL I ADD MORE SUGAR TO BETTER SUIT YOUR TASTES?
MILADY
THUD
BUT I DON'T HATE HER OFFHANDED JOKES.
SHE'S MY SISTER OLDER BY 9 YEARS, GALLANT BOTH INSIDE AND OUT.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU, MANAKA
IT'S BEEN 12 YEARS SINCE I'VE BEEN LEFT TO THIS FAMILY
IT'S A HAPPY FAMILY WITH WARM, GENEROUS PARENTS AND A SARCASTIC, BUT GOOD-HUMORED SISTER
I REALLY LIKE THIS FAMILY

HAVE YOU GOTTEN TALLER LATELY?
IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN ONE MONTH SINCE I'VE LAST SEEN YOU
BUT I FEEL LIKE YOU'VE REALLY GROWN!
HOW TALL ARE YOU NOW?
170 CM

NOTE 5' 7"


YOU'LL PROBABLY GROW EVEN MORE
YOU'RE STILL JUST 17.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,
I WAS 17 WHEN I HAD YOU, MIKI


WHEN RISAKO -SAN WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH A BUSINESSMAN MORE THAN 24 YEARS HER SENIOR.
SHE MARRIED HIM DESPITE EVERYONE S OPPOSITION. MY REAL FATHER DIED WHEN I WAS 4 AND I HAVE NO MEMORY OF HIM.
RISAKO-SAN BEGAN TO WORK AS SHE ENROLLED INTO A BEAUTY SCHOOL. THE TAMURAS TOOK ME IN AND RAISED ME IN HER PLACE

OH YES, I FOUND A SUIT THAT WOULD LOOK GREAT ON YOU, MIKI!
IT'S OK
AREN'T THEY SUPER EXPENSIVE? I DON'T REALLY NEED ONE
SHEESH, YOU'RE SUCH A HARD CHILD TO PLEASE
OH,
HERE, YOU SAID YOU NEEDED MONEY FOR YOUR DATES OR SOMETHING
Here you go!
IT SEEMS TO PLEASE RISAKO-SAN TO GIVE SPENDING MONEY TO ME, HER SON
Thanks
I'LL RETURN RIGHT AWAY
YES, I UNDER-STAND
.. YES?
IT'S OK I HAVE CRAM SCHOOL SOON ANYWAY
beep
I'M SORRY, MIKI BUT I HAVE TO GO BACK TO WORK

CHU
YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD BOY
PEOPLE ARE WATCHING
BUT I'M ALSO HAPPY THAT I CAN SEE YOU ON DATES LIKE THIS, RISAKO-SAN.
BUT YOU'RE PROBABLY FAR HAPPIER LIVING AT AUNTIE KAZU'S HOUSE
IF I DIDN'T HAVE SUCH AN UNCONVENTIONAL JOB, I WOULD HAVE LIKED US TO LIVE TOGETHER.
TYPICAL MOTHERS IN JAPAN WOULD NEVER KISS THEIR SONS AT MY AGE, NOR WOULD THEY GIVE THEM TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YEN FOR SPENDING MONEY.
I FEEL THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US THE MORE SHE LAVISHES HER AFFECTION ON ME.
I FORGOT THAT TODAY'S MATH LECTURE WAS CANCELLED
YOU MUST STILL HAVE FEELINGS FOR HIM, CORRECT?

I'M SURE THAT YOU'RE STILL IN LOVE WITH RYOUSUKE!
RYOU-SUKE?
THAT'S WHY YOU DON'T WANT TO ATTEND OUR WEDDING!
THAT'S A MAN'S NAME THOUGH?
SO WHY WON'T YOU ATTEND OUR WEDDING?
I'VE SAID IT SEVERAL TIMES NOW, I HAVE A PREVIOUS ENGAGE-MENT ON THAT DAY
WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?
PARDON ME, BUT I GIVE YOU MY BLESSINGS FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.
HUH? THIS VOICE IS—
IN APOLOGY, I'D BE GLAD TO HOST A WEDDING CELEBRATION FOR YOU. PLEASE DISCUSS WITH RYOUSUKE ANY PLANS YOU WOULD LIKE
AND THE ONE BEING ACCUSED IS ALSO A MAN—?
I REALLY HAVE A PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT ON THAT DAY, MY ELDER BROTHER'S OWN WEDDING.
I'M NOT THAT SPITEFUL OF A MAN.
SOME-ONE'S COMING THIS WAY!
OH CRAP!
STEP
STEP
STEP
AM I GONNA BE CAUGHT FOR EAVESDROPPING!?
I FEEL LIKE I HEARD SOMETHING I SHOULDN'T HAVE
THANK YOU.

YOUR SWEATER IS CAUGHT
OH, EXCUSE ME. I'VE INTERRUPTED YOUR SMOKE BREAK ONCE AGAIN
OH—
S-SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE
UM?
W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
WHEN I REACHED OUT TO UNHOOK YOUR SWEATER, YOU STIFFENED. YOU MUST KNOW THAT I'M GAY.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
... IT SEEMS THAT
YOU'VE OVERHEARD OUR CONVERSATION JUST NOW

I'VE TOTALLY SCREWED IT UP!
T-TAMURA
MIKI TAMURA
I'VE
WHY DID I ANSWER SO EASILY LIKE AN IDIOT?
WELL, TAMURA-KUN
IF YOU'D LIKE, WOULD YOU CARE TO
COME TO MY OFFICE AND HAVE SOME TEA?
THAT GESTURE SUGGESTS THAT
IF I DON'T FOLLOW HIM, HE MAY THREATEN TO REPORT ME FOR SMOKING...
TO BE CONTINUED
Chara Collection

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Soshite Koi ga Hajimaru

Kei Tsukimura & Sumomo Yumeka

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soshite koi ga hajimaru
so love begins
by: kei tsukimura & sumomo yumeka

mochi*mochi
http://mochi.harusame.net
#kodocha@irchighway.net
6/2004

SET//Artemis
QC//Sanaaki & Vieri

Story By:
Kei Tsukimura
Art By:
Sumomo Yumeka
Miki follows the man to his office, facing the possibility of being reported for smoking, but why does he end up listening to his confession of regret...?
mochi*mochi presents
そして恋がはじまる
story of pure hearts
so love begins
(so love begins) Kei Tsukimura Illustrations Sumomo Yumeka

I WAS SMOKING OUT ON THE EMERGENCY STAIRCASE OF THE BUILDING WHERE I GO TO CRAM SCHOOL...
WHEN I ACCIDENTLY OVERHEARD A PRIVATE CONVERSATION.
TO MY MISFORTUNE, THE PERSON INVOLVED HAPPENED TO DISCOVER ME SMOKING.
RIGHT NOW I AM HEADING OVER TO HIS OFFICE.
ALTHOUGH HE EXPRESSLY INVITED ME OVER FOR "TEA"...
open
IN ACTUALITY, IT IS AN INVITATION TO KEEP THE CONTENTS OF THAT CONVERSATION "HUSHED".

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR, MIKI SUDO IS JUST AN ACTOR TO PLAY THE ROLE OF A GOOD BOY. DESPITE HOW BOTHERSOME THAT ACT MAY BE, HE DOESN'T HAVE THE UNDERSTANDING TO PRIVATE CONVERSATION. JUST WHEN HE TURNS TO RUN AWAY HE IS CAUGHT BY THE MAN HE'D ACCIDENTLY OVERHEARD A MAN AND A WOMAN'S

PLEASE, COME IN.
IN EXCHANGE FOR KEEPING MY SMOKING A SECRET...
Asami Arbitration & Consulting
"...ARBITRATION AND CONSULTING..."
.....
"ASAMI..."
UH-UM...
I APOLOGIZE THAT IT'S A BIT CRAMPED IN HERE.

THAT WAY YOU CAN YELL IF YOU SENSE ANY DANGER
I'LL LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO APPREHENSIVE
OH ..
THAT'S NOT NECESSARY
CLOSE

Asami Arbitration & Consulting
THIS IS MY CARD.
ASAMI ARBITRATION AND CONSULTING
YOSHIHISA ASAMI...
OH, YOU'RE THE HEAD OF THIS OFFICE?
NOMINALLY, YES
I RUN THIS OFFICE BY MYSELF.
I GUESS YOU CAN SAY I ACT AS THE HEAD, THE SECRETARY, AND THE CLERK HERE.
WOULD YOU PREFER TO HAVE COFFEE OR TEA?

OH...
I'M FINE, THANK YOU.
IT WOULD BE A LOT EASIER FOR ME IF YOU JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU'D LIKE
ALRIGHT
I'LL HAVE REGULAR TEA THEN
OK

.....
TAMURA-KUN, DO YOU GO TO THE CRAM SCHOOL DOWNSTAIRS?
glance
YES, I DO
I'M A JUNIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL.
WHAT GRADE ARE YOU IN?
THAT'S A GOOD TIME OF YOUR LIFE.
.....
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S EITHER GOOD OR BAD...

PLEASE HAVE SOME IF YOU'D LIKE.
THANK YOU...
DON'T YOU THINK THEIR NAME "MOONLIGHT" IS QUITE PRETTY?
WHEN I'M TIRED, I USUALLY GET THE URGE TO EAT THESE
YES
THEY'RE VERY GOOD TOO.
I WONDER... HOW MUCH DID YOU ACTUALLY HEAR?

I HEARD YOU SAY THAT YOU COULDN'T GO TO YOUR FRIEND'S WEDDING BECAUSE OF A TIME CONFLICT WITH YOUR BROTHER'S WEDDING...
OH, THAT WAS JUST AN EXCUSE
EVEN SHE WOULDN'T GO THROUGH ALL THE TROUBLE TO CALL MY FAMILY TO CHECK THAT...
.....
SO THAT WAS A LIE?
YES.
I HAVEN'T SPOKEN TO MY FAMILY SINCE I TOLD THEM THAT I WAS GAY.
SO WHAT THAT WOMAN SAID WAS TRUE?
HE WAS ACTUALLY IN LOVE WITH HER FIANCÉ...?
THAT WOMAN WAS A FORMER CO-WORKER OF MINE.
SHE'S GETTING MARRIED TO ANOTHER FORMER CO-WORKER.

THE ONE NAMED RYOU LIKE?
YES
WHAT YOU WOULD CALL A LOVE TRIANGLE, I SUPPOSE
SHE IS AN ADMIRABLE WOMAN, AND SHE CONFESSED HER FEELINGS FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME...
SO I HID MY ORIENTATION FOR THE TIME BEING AND BEGAN DATING HER
flick
AS YOU GROW OLDER, YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO BE PICKY
AS YOU APPROACH THIRTY, YOU BEGIN TO THINK ABOUT ALL SORTS OF THINGS.
SUCH AS JOB PROSPECTS AND LIVING AN AVERAGE LIFE...

LIVING ALONE IN THIS WORLD
MAKES LIFE SEEM THAT MUCH LONGER...
.....
SO...
YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO GO THROUGH WITH IT?
BUT IT DIDN'T WORK OUT THAT WAY...
I THOUGHT THAT I COULD DO THE SAME TOO...
WHO CHOOSE TO HIDE IT AND LEAD A NORMAL LIFE
THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE THAT ARE GAY
I FOUND OUT THAT RYOUSUKE WAS IN LOVE WITH HER.

...SO YOU GAVE HER LIP TO HIM?
SO I TOLD HER EVERY-THING...
BUT THE FACT WAS I FELT INCREDIBLY GUILTY FOR DECEIVING HER
THAT'S A NICE WAY OF PUTTING IT..
THAT I WAS ACTUALLY GAY AND THAT I WAS IN LOVE WITH RYOUSUKE
.....
SHE WAS VERY UNDERSTANDING, EVEN SAYING THAT SHE DIDN'T MIND ALL THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES.
BUT KNOWING THAT RYOUSUKE WAS IN LOVE WITH HER
I COULDN'T KEEP DATING HER WHILE I HAD NO SORT OF ROMANTIC FEELINGS FOR HER.

.....
I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS OF WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT..
BUT IN THE END, THAT WOMAN DECIDED TO MARRY THE MAN WHO HAD FEELINGS FOR HER
ANYWAYS, A LOT OF TIME HAS PASSED SINCE THEN. I'VE ALREADY RESOLVED THE ISSUE OF RYOU LIKE WITH MYSELF
I REALLY WISH THEM HAPPINESS IN THEIR MARRIAGE
THAT AT LEAST IS TRUE
BUT STILL I DON'T WANT GO TO THEIR WEDDING AS IF NOTHING HAS PASSED BETWEEN US...
.....
I UNDERSTAND WHY... HE DOESN'T WANT TO GO TO THEIR WEDDING
HOW SILLY OF ME...
I INTENDED TO KEEP RUMORS ABOUT THIS FROM SPREADING BY BRINGING YOU HERE

WHAT A PERFECT IDIOT I AM TO SPILL EVERYTHING TO YOU..
I-...!
I WON'T... BE SPREADING ANY RUMORS...
IT APPEARS THAT CLASS WILL BE STARTING SOON
chatter
chatter
chatter
YOU ARE VERY KIND, AREN'T YOU?
THANK YOU.

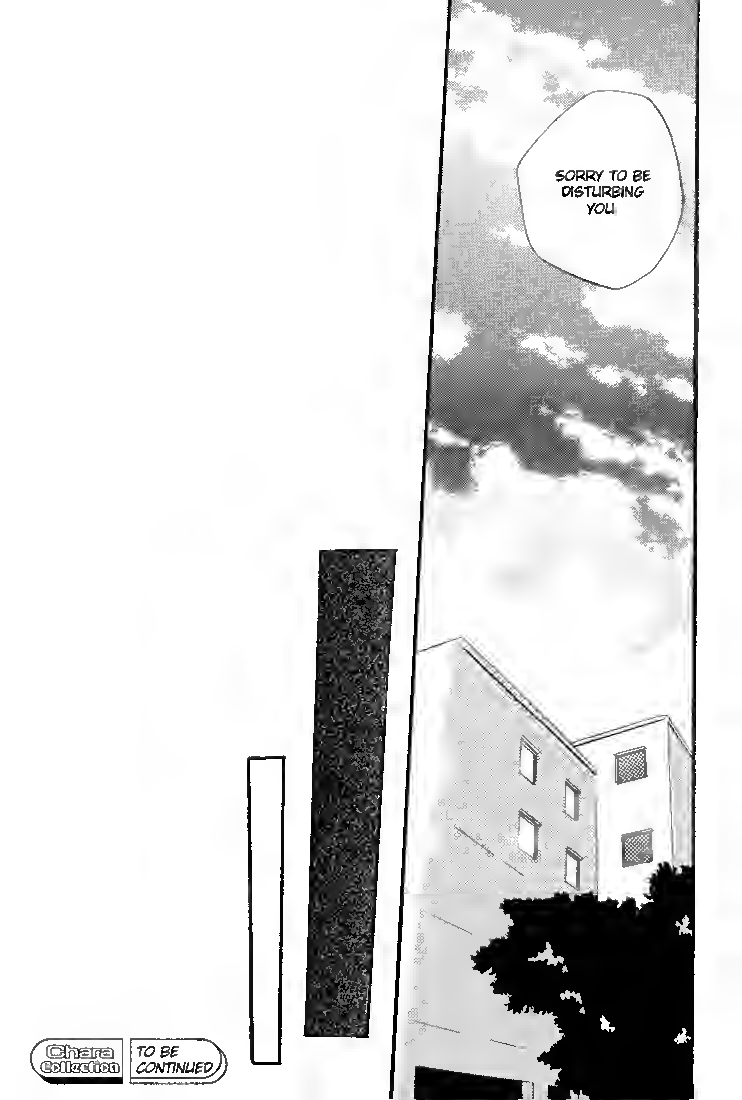
IF YOU WOULD LIKE, PLEASE STOP IN AGAIN
OH..
THANK YOU FOR THE TEA AND COOKIES.
IT'S SURPRISING HOW MANY PEOPLE USE THAT EMERGENCY STAIRCASE.
IT'S NOT A PLACE FOR PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS OR UNDERAGE SMOKING.
HERE, THERE'S AIR-CONDITIONING AND I'LL SERVE TEA.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
MIKI,
THERE'S STILL TIME BEFORE CRAM SCHOOL STARTS. WANNA DO SOMETHING?
YOU SEEM PRETTY HAPPY LATELY...
DID YOU GET A NEW GIRLFRIEND?
SORRY,
I WANT TO STOP BY SOMEWHERE FIRST. GO AHEAD WITHOUT ME.

NO, NO. IT'S NOT THAT.
I'M KINDA IN A HURRY...
SO I'LL SEE YOU LATER.
DON'T BE LATE FOR CLASS.
I WON'T.
FOR HALF A MONTH.
I WENT AND VISITED ASAMI-SAN AT HIS OFFICE.

I TIMIDLY VISITED HIM AGAIN...
THREE DAYS AFTER I FIRST CHANCED UPON HIS OFFICE...
I NO LONGER FEEL MUCH APPREHENSION TOWARDS ASAMI-SAN'S ORIENTATION
HE SMILED AND SAID, "I'M SO GLAD I WAS ABLE TO MAKE A TEA-DRINKING FRIEND."
AND THEN TREATED ME TO SOME DELICIOUS COFFEE...

BUT I WAS HAPPY TO BE WELCOMED LIKE THAT
ALTHOUGH AS AN ADULT, HE MAY HAVE SAID THAT TO BE POLITE
ding dong
PLEASE, COME IN
Asami Arbitration & Consulting


SORRY TO BE DISTURBING YOU.

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Soshite Koi ga Hajimaru

Kei Tsukimura & Sumomo Yumeka

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6/2004

SET//Artemis
QC//Sanaaki

そして恋がはじまる
story of pure hearts
so love begins
AH, TAMURA-KUN
ARE YOU BUSY RIGHT NOW?
HELLO THERE NO, I'M NOT BUSY
GOOD AFTERNOON!
IT'S BEEN HALF A MONTH SINCE I STARTED VISITING ASAMI-SAN AT HIS OFFICE
SORRY TO BE BOTHERING YOU.
HE ALWAYS WELCOMES ME WITH A SMILE, TREATING ME TO TEA ..
AND EVEN ALLOWING ME TO SMOKE IN HIS OFFICE
Story By: Kei Tsukimura
Art By: Sumomo Yumeka
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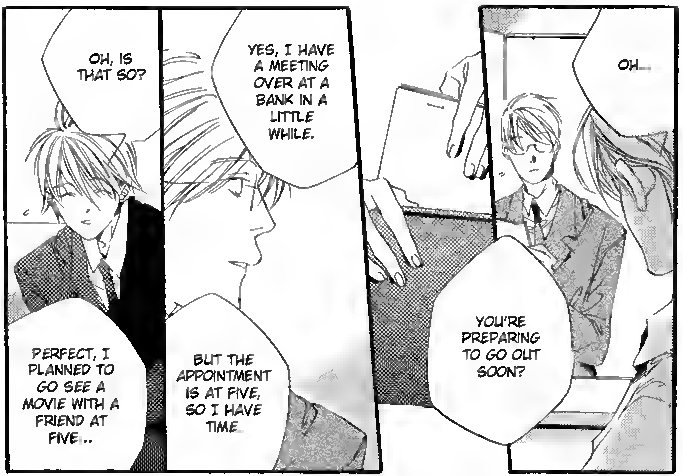
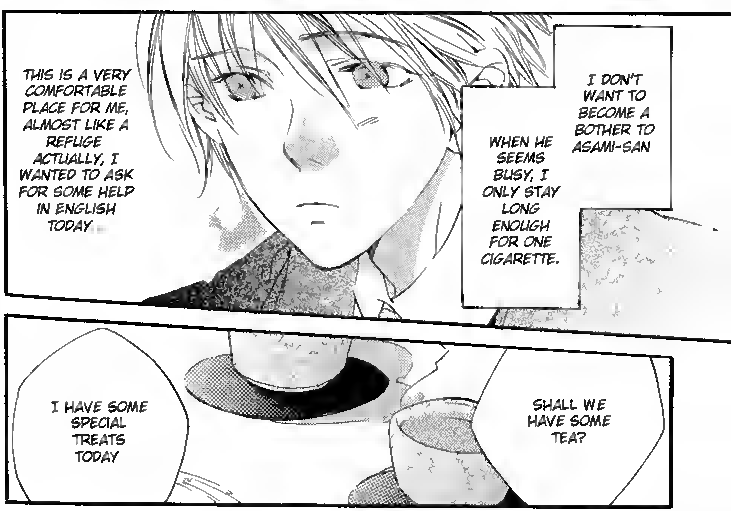

OH, IS THAT SO?
YES, I HAVE A MEETING OVER AT A BANK IN A LITTLE WHILE.
OH...
PERFECT, I PLANNED TO GO SEE A MOVIE WITH A FRIEND AT FIVE..
BUT THE APPOINTMENT IS AT FIVE, SO I HAVE TIME.
YOU'RE PREPARING TO GO OUT SOON?


THIS IS A VERY COMFORTABLE PLACE FOR ME, ALMOST LIKE A REFUGE. ACTUALLY, I WANTED TO ASK FOR SOME HELP IN ENGLISH TODAY.
WHEN HE SEEMS BUSY, I ONLY STAY LONG ENOUGH FOR ONE CIGARETTE.
I DON'T WANT TO BECOME A BOTHER TO ASAMI-SAN
I HAVE SOME SPECIAL TREATS TODAY
SHALL WE HAVE SOME TEA?

NOTE: SHINAGAWA MAKI IS A TYPE OF SENBEI (RICE CRACKERS) ROLLED WITH NORI

WE CHAT ABOUT ALL SORTS OF THINGS HERE.
I LEARNED THAT ASAMI-SAN, INCIDENTALLY, GRADUATED FROM THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL THAT I'M ATTENDING.
AND THAT WE BOTH ENJOYED THE CAFETERIA'S RUSK.
TALKING AND LAUGHING ABOUT THE LITTLEST THINGS...
I'VE NEVER HAD A PLACE I'VE ENJOYED LIKE THIS BEFORE...

NOTE: RUSK IS A TYPE OF SWEET BREAD

IS THERE ANYTHING THE MATTER?
OH NO, NOTHING AT ALL.
AN ARBITRATOR AND A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT DRINKING JASMINE TEA AND EATING SHINAGAWA MAKI TOGETHER IN AN OFFICE BUILDING
IT'S KINDA FUNNY IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT...
giggle
THIS IS PROBABLY A PLACE
THAT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED
flick
I'VE NEVER SPENT SUCH A PEACEFUL AND SERENE TIME AS THIS
IN MY LIFE BEFORE
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TO BE CONTINUED

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Art By:
Sumomo Yumeka

Miki makes sure to visit his much older tea-drinking friend, Asami, at his office whenever he has cram school.
For the first time, he begins to speak about the emotions he's locked away in his heart.
mochi mochi presents
そして恋がはじまる
story of future hearts
so love begins
chara novels
(so love begins) Kei Tsukimura
Illustrations Sumomo Yumeka

Asami A
I VISIT ASAMI-SAN AT HIS OFFICE QUITE OFTEN EVER SINCE THEN
KNOCK
KNOCK
PLEASE COME IN
SORRY TO BE BO-.
!
SORRY, I DIDN'T...
AH.
EXCUSE ME—

HIGH-SCHOOLER MASAMI ISHIDA FIRST MET HIS FATHER'S FRIEND, 40-YEAR-OLD LAWYER TAMURA, WHEN HE ACCIDENTALLY OVERHEARD A MAN AND A WOMAN'S PRIVATE CONVERSATION. THE MAN, ASAMI, WAS A LAW OFFICE IN THE TOKYO WARD WHERE MASAMI LIVED. HE BEGINS TO VISIT ASAMI MORE AND MORE OFTEN.

THAT'S A VERY CUTE CLIENT YOU HAVE THERE.
HE'S NOT A CLIENT. HE'S MY TEA-DRINKING FRIEND.
IT'S ALRIGHT, TAMURA-KUN. WE'RE PRETTY MUCH FINISHED HERE, SO PLEASE COME IN.
TAMURA-KUN, THIS IS MY SENPAI FROM MY COLLEGE DAYS.
I'M SORRY, WE JUST HAVE A FEW THINGS TO FINISH. COULD YOU WAIT FOR US UNTIL THEN?
OF COURSE.

I ASKED ASAMI TO PREPARE THE BUILDING REGISTRATION PAPERS FOR THE NEW SHOP I'M OPENING
I CAME TO PICK UP THE REGISTRATION LICENSE FOR IT TODAY.
?
IS THIS THE REGISTRATION LICENSE?
YES.
IT'S PRETTY MUCH JUST A DEED.
A DEED ...?
LIKE THOSE PAPERS THAT USUALLY GET STOLEN IN SUSPENSE DRAMAS?
YUP.
AND THIS IS HOW MUCH IT COSTS TO GET THIS FLIMSY PIECE OF PAPER.
WOW.
IT MUST BE VERY PROFITABLE BEING A LAW CONSULTANT

THAT'S RIGHT
THAT ASAMI APPEARS TO BE A NICE AND NORMAL GUY ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT TRUTHFULLY...
HE'S RAKING IN THE DOUGH WITH THAT FACE OF HIS.
DON'T TELL LIES WHEN PEOPLE ARE LISTENING TO YOU EARNESTLY.
I DON'T EVEN GET ONE-TENTH OF WHAT'S IN THAT ENVELOPE.
YEAH, YEAH.
I'M GRATEFUL THAT YOU'RE DOING THIS AT A REDUCED FEE FOR ME.
I'M ALSO GRATEFUL TO HAVE SUCH AN OLD FRIEND BRING ME SOME WORK SO I CAN CHAT LIKE THIS
THANK YOU FOR WAITING.

close...
THANK YOU.
SEE YOU AGAIN, TAMURA-KUN.
SHALL WE HAVE SOME TEA?
AH, ALRIGHT.
GOOD-BYE.
waff...?

TAMURA-KUN, YOU'RE A PRETTY SHY PERSON.
Flick
.....
WELL..
THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF SHYNESS.
HUH?
I'VE NEVER HAD ANYONE POINT THAT OUT TO ME BEFORE...
WHEN I HAVE A GUEST, YOU ALWAYS TAKE CARE TO KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING FOR ME
AREN'T YOU THE LATTER, TAMURA-KUN?
THE TYPE WHO GETS SO NERVOUS THEY CAN'T SPEAK AND THE TYPE WHO'S UNCOMFORTABLE WITH SILENCE SO THEY FORCE THEMSELVES TO TALK...

I'M SORRY...
HE'S RIGHT...
I GUESS HE DIDN'T LIKE THE WAY I DEALT WITH HIS GUEST...
WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING?
BECAUSE HE WAS YOUR GUEST...
AND I GOT TOO WRAPPED UP IN THE MOMENT...

OH, NO...
I MEANT THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF WHAT YOU THOUGHT...

.....
IF YOU PRAISE ME LIKE THAT SO FREELY, I'LL JUST GET CARRIED AWAY AGAIN
YOU HAVE A VERY KIND AND CONSIDERATE DISPOSITION
THAT DELICACY IS A GOOD TRAIT OF YOURS
BUT ASAMI-SAN JUST SMILED AND REPLIED, "IT'S ALRIGHT"...
I FEEBLY ATTEMPTED TO COVER MY EMBARRASSMENT WITH A JOKE...

IS THERE ANOTHER STUDY SESSION AFTER CRAM SCHOOL TODAY?
IT'S A PRETTY GOOD PLACE AND WE GET A LOT DONE
WANT TO GO TOGETHER SOMETIME, IIDA?

UNLIKE YOU, MIKI, I DON'T HAVE MUCH FREE TIME

?
AH
...

HOLD ON FOR A SEC.
RUN
WHEN I FIRST STARTED VISITING ASAMI-SAN AT HIS OFFICE, I FOUND OUT THAT HE ACTUALLY GRADUATED FROM THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL THAT I GO TO
HE MENTIONED THAT HE REALLY ENJOYED THE SCHOOL'S RUSK
I'LL BUY SOME AND BRING IT OVER
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DUMPED TAMURA-KUN
SAYAKA, DID YOU REALLY?
HUH?
THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT ME?
I DID!
IT WAS LIKE... IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO IT, THEN I'LL DO IT

I MEAN, I THINK HE'S A NICE GUY AND ALL.
BUT HE'S SO NICE THAT IT'S BORING.
HE'LL LISTEN TO EVERY-THING YOU SAY
NOW THAT'S WHAT I WANT!
Ha ha ha ha
IIDA...
HE NEVER TRIES TO PULL YOU TO DO THINGS THAT HE WANTS TO DO EITHER.

ONCE YOU TRY GOING OUT WITH HIM, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND
IT'S LIKE BEING WITH AN INVISIBLE PERSON
AN INVISIBLE PERSON ...?
IT'S UNCOMFORTABLE ENOUGH FOR ME TO HEAR MYSELF BEING GOSSIPED ABOUT, BUT IT MUST BE EVEN WORSE FOR IIDA WHO'S STANDING NEXT TO ME
...TO HELL WITH YOU, BITCH!
BUT WITH A FACE LIKE THAT, IT DOESN'T MATTER IF HE'S INVISIBLE OR EVEN AN ALIEN
A ha ha ha

OK?
JUST LET IT GO!
WHAT THEY SAID ISN'T A BIG DEAL TO ME.
THAT'S WHY THEY SAY YOU'RE TOO NICE.
IDIOT.

IIDA, YOU'RE MUCH...
HARSHER THAN THOSE GIRLS WERE...
He he
Shuddering

ASAMI-SAN...
IS IT HARD TO BECOME A LAW CONSULTANT?
IT'S NOT AT ALL
ALTHOUGH ONLY 3 4% PASS THE EXAM...

HAHAHA.
OF COURSE NOT.
ACK!
ISN'T THAT HARDER THAN BECOMING A LAWYER?
THE PASS/FAIL RATE ISN'T REALLY A GOOD MEASURE OF ITS DIFFICULTY.
snuff
ALSO THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO JUST TAKE IT AS A JOKE
UNLIKE THE BAR EXAM, IT CONSISTS OF ONLY A WRITTEN TEST.
Ha ha ha
THAT REALLY DEPENDS TOO.
DO THEY MAKE A LOT OF MONEY?
THANK YOU.
BUT IT'S STILL AMAZING.

司法書士 - THERE'S NO SPECIFIC ENGLISH EQUIVALENT FOR THIS. BASICALLY A SHIHOUSHOSHI PREPARES LEGAL DOCUMENTS, ARBITRATES DISPUTES, AND PROVIDES OTHER MISCELLANEOUS LEGAL SERVICES. A LAW CONSULTANT IS CLOSE ENOUGH.

WHY DID YOU BECOME A LAW CONSULTANT?
BECAUSE I CAN START UP MY OWN OFFICE BY DOING THIS
I ALSO THOUGHT THAT LIVING WHILE BOUND TO AN ORGANIZATION WOULD HAVE ITS TOUGH ISSUES TOO.
BUT ASAMI-SAN, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO DO WELL IN ANY KIND OF SITUATION...
DO YOU THINK SO?
WELL, FOR A MAN WHO WILL BE SINGLE ALL HIS LIFE...
IT'S EASIER TO DEAL WITH IT AS AN INDEPENDENT BUSINESS OWNER THAN AS A SALARYMAN...
THAT'S RIGHT...
ASAMI-SAN IS PREPARED TO STAY SINGLE FOR HIS ENTIRE LIFE...

DID I ASK SOMETHING TOO PERSONAL?
I'M SORRY...
WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING?
IT'S RARE FOR YOU TO TALK SO MUCH, SO I'M GLAD OF IT.
I'D LIKE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT YOU IF POSSIBLE.
.....
I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING EXCITING TO TALK ABOUT.
AT YOUR AGE, SHOULDN'T EVERY DAY BE A DRAMA?
JUST START BY TALKING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED IN YOUR DAY TODAY.
IT SHOULD BE PLENTY INTERESTING.
WELL...
DURING SECOND PERIOD TODAY, A DOG CAME INTO OUR CLASSROOM
HE JUST SAT THERE ALL MORNING AND HAD CLASS WITH ALL OF US...

DID ANYTHING ELSE HAPPEN TODAY?
OH, WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL
THERE WAS A CROCO-DILE IN THE POOL
THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A BIG FUSS ABOUT IT.
Ha ha ha
Ha ha ha
THAT'S REALLY FUNNY...
FOR SOME REASON THERE ARE ALWAYS DOGS THAT ROAM AROUND THE SCHOOL
ANYTHING ELSE...?
YEAH
SHE SAID I WAS TOO NICE SO I WAS BORING
LIKE AN INVISIBLE PERSON I THOUGHT SHE PUT THAT PRETTY WELL...
TALKING BEHIND YOUR BACK?
WELL, WHEN I WAS GETTING OUT OF SCHOOL, I OVER-HEARD A GIRL WHO I USED TO GO OUT WITH TALKING BEHIND MY BACK...
I JUST STOOD THERE AND LISTENED TO IT...

DON'T SAY THAT!
OH, THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO FORCE YOURSELF TO SAY SOMETHING.
YOU'RE A GOOD KID WHO SHOWS MORE CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS THAN WHAT'S EXPECTED FOR YOUR AGE.
ANYWAY, I THINK I'M A RATHER BORING GUY TOO...
YOU SAY THAT AS IF YOU DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT IT.
ABOUT MYSELF.
THAT'S WHAT I HATE...
EVEN THOUGH I'M ADOPTED, IT'S MY RELATIVES WHO ADOPTED ME.
AH... BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS FORCED INTO A BAD SITUATION OR ANYTHING.
—I'M...
ADOPTED
THERE'S NO PROBLEM AT ALL. MY MOTHER IS WELL, AND I SEE HER ALL THE TIME.
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU LISTEN TO—...

HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU WERE ADOPTED?
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT IT
NOT AT ALL.
MY FATHER DIED WHEN I WAS FOUR
I WAS OFFICIALLY ADOPTED WHEN I WAS NINE.
BUT I DREADED BEING ALONE, AND I KNEW WHAT PEOPLE WERE THINKING JUST BY THEIR FACES
EVERYONE WAS VERY KIND TO ME AND I DON'T HAVE ANY BAD MEMORIES OF THAT TIME...
UNCONSCIOUSLY, I WAS JUST FLATTERING OTHERS SO I COULD CREATE A PLACE FOR MYSELF... THAT'S WHY IT HURT SO MUCH WHEN SAYAKA CALLED ME AN INVISIBLE PERSON...
I WANTED MY PARENTS TO TELL ME THAT I WAS A GOOD BOY I WANTED MANA-CHAN TO LIKE ME I DIDN'T WANT TO BECOME A BURDEN FOR RISAKO-SAN I KEPT WORRYING ABOUT NOT CAUSING TROUBLE FOR OTHER PEOPLE...
I PROBABLY REALLY AM INVISIBLE TO ALL MY FAMILY AND TO RISAKO-SAN TOO...

I SOMETIMES FEEL ENVIOUS OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO CAN LIVE ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN PACE...
I ALWAYS END UP ADJUSTING TO EVERYONE ELSE'S PACE...
BUT ISN'T THAT... YOUR OWN PACE?
HUH?
THERE'S NO ABSOLUTE DEFINITION FOR LIVING AT YOUR OWN PACE...
JUST THAT EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN WAY OF LIVING...
IF THERE ARE PEOPLE LIVING AT A PACE WHERE THEY WORK SO MUCH THAT THEY DON'T HAVE TIME TO SLEEP, THEN THERE ARE ALSO PEOPLE LIVING AT A PACE WHERE THEY LAZE AROUND ALL DAY.
READING WHAT PEOPLE FEEL BEFOREHAND AND ADAPTING TO THE SITUATION...
THAT IS YOU LIVING AT YOUR PACE.

.....
I DON'T REALLY... LIKE THAT KIND OF PACE
THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU
EVEN WHEN YOU COME HERE, YOU ARE ALWAYS CAREFUL ABOUT MY WORK
YOU ARE VERY GOOD AT NOTICING HOW NOT TO HURT PEOPLE AROUND YOU...
THAT'S WHY WHENEVER I AM AROUND YOU, I NEVER FEEL STRESSED. I REALLY ENJOY THE TIME WE HAVE TOGETHER.

NORMALLY, I THINK SOMEONE WOULD SAY HERE, "DON'T PUSH YOURSELF SO HARD TO ACCOMODATE OTHER PEOPLE. TRY TO LIVE YOUR LIFE MORE FREELY"...
BUT ASAMI-SAN...
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME MORE TEA?
IS TELLING ME THAT IT'S OK TO BE JUST WHO I AM...
YES, PLEASE.
Chara Collection
END

Hi everyone.

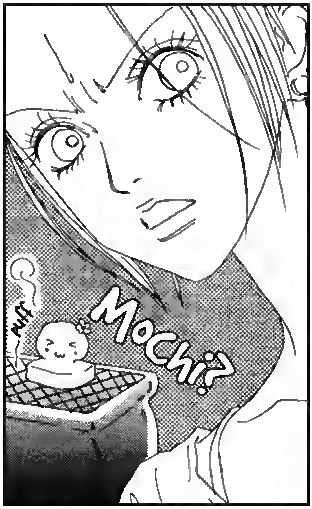
It looks like this is the end of Soshite Koi ga Hajimaru manga although I wish it wasn't. I'm still hoping that the END at the end of the chapter is a typo but I have no way of knowing if they plan to stop it at this point. There has been no new issues of Chara Collection so I can't confirm. Also no announcement when or if a new issue will be out.

The Chara website which I stalk regularly gives an upcoming list of manga that will be based on novels. The list includes Soshite Koi and lists many one-shots that were completed and based on a novel. The Soshite Koi novel now has a 'Manga To Be Available' label rather than a 'Now Serializing' label that I saw months ago. This is a good indication that Chara only planned to have a short preview manga of Soshite Koi.

This is maybe one-tenth of the story in the novel. So I'm rather disappointed to say the least that more of the story wasn't completed. The image to the left is from the Soshite Koi novel. If you're interested (or not) in reading more of this story come to our website at http://mochiharusama.net and vote. If there's enough interest for me to translate the novel. I'll be glad to translate it. If not, then it means I won't be cutting into my time that I use to translate manga for mochi. So make your voices heard.

Artemis
mochi*mochi

http://mochichirisame.net -------- 1/2004 -------- #kodachi@irchighway.net



mochi*mochi presents

So Love Begins

Soshite Koi ga Hajimaru

By: Kei Tsukimura & Sumomo Yumeka

****

Mochi is basically a sticky rice cake made from pounded, glutinous rice. While there are special mochi dishes prepared just for Japanese holidays, it's eaten all year round too and quite delicious.

Err, mochi doesn't usually have Hachiko's face on it when you cook blocks of pre-packaged mochi from the store, but it's cute isn't it? It's rather hard at first, but becomes soft and sticky when cooked. Try some mochi sometime!

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Celebrating
our first
Anniversary
mochi*mochi

Soshite Koi ga Hajimaru

Kei Tsukimura & Sumomo Yumeka

Chara Collection